ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWOLD,

1902.

. . . THE . . .

MEDICAL REPORT FOR 1902

For the Borough of Southwold.

To THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHWOLD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting you with my Medical Report for 1902, I must first draw your attention to our extraordinarily low death-rate. Our average for the last 20 years is 14 per 1,000; for 1902 it is just half, viz. :—7 per 1,000, only 20 deaths of residents being registered, and of this number 5 were under 1 year and 10 over 70 years. Owing to the recent Census one is able to guage pretty nearly the actual population. Our annual rate of increase in population has averaged 50 during the last decade. In 1902 the natural increase, viz., excess of births over deaths was 39—in 1901 it was 21—so that we may fairly estimate our present numbers at 2,850 and upon this basis I have calculated all my averages. I will give a résumé of the results of the 1901 Census of our town, at the end of my Report, as well as a comparison of the decades 1881 to 1891 and 1891 to 1901, which I think will prove of interest.

Our Birth-rate is fairly high for the year, well above the average and in comparing it with the death-rate for the last 20 years we find it has been persistently higher throughout. The result of this uninterrupted increase, together with the immigration of adults mostly in the prime of life, is favourable to a low death-rate. Examination of the Census returns shows that the number of the population under 15 years of age exceeds that of the population of over 40 years of age, and the total number *at* 40 *years and under* is nearly three times that *over* 40; but we must also take into account the hygienic and climatic conditions under which we live, which are distinctly favourable.

I must now turn to a dark side of our history during the past year in referring to our tale of Infectious Disease. From July, 1889, when the Notification Act came into force in this Borough, to the end of 1901, a period of $12\frac{1}{2}$ years, exactly 60 cases of infectious disease were notified. During 1902, I regret to inform you, no less than 36 cases were reported, in addition to which we have had some Measles and Whooping Cough, diseases not notifiable here. Of these the serious disease was Diphtheria, but its outbreak was clearly attributable to a case imported into a private School, amongst whose inmates it spread. I am happy to say we escaped any visitation of the Small Pox scourge that was causing so much scare throughout the country during the early part of the year. There was an alarm in respect of one person, a stranger, who left the town suddenly and was reported, on his arrival in London, as having developed it, but it proved to be a false alarm. Every precaution, however, was taken here to prevent its spread in the event of its turning out to be Small Pox. One good effect of the scare was to bring about the establishment of our Isolation Hospital.

Re-vaccination was carried out on a fairly large scale but the numbers coming forward did not total up what might have been expected. Vaccination of infants has proceeded very satisfactorily: parents but seldom make any objection and the lymph supplied is so pure that good results are the rule. We have only had two conscientious objectors under the new Act. I have the pleasure to inform you that the special grant for successful Vaccination has again been awarded me.

This Report will contain for the first time the results of my Inspection of Workshops, &c., as required under the new "Factory and Workshops Act."

As regards our Drainage, I would it were possible to give a really satisfactory report but, unfortunately the evidence of our olfactory senses when in the proximity of the *Outfall Works*,

precludes our indulging in one with regard to that portion of it. Last year I stated "*as yet*" *its working is not satisfactory* and again this year I have to write "*as yet.*" I must urge very strenuously that this problem of the Outfall Works be dealt with without further delay. I believe our system of sewers from house drains to outfall works is very good ; we have a very fair fall (in the town) ; we have a good Pumping Station where needed ; two Ejector Stations for the low level portions ; good flushing, and certainly, for the most part, well-laid drains. There must perforce be some imperfections, we cannot expect that when a new system is first laid down in a small town like ours, it will be done with all the precision science requires, yet not much fault can be found. But when we come to the Outfall Works, what do we find ? Accumulation of filth, stench unbearable, almost complete failure of action ; and can all this in fairness be ascribed to the Bacterial System of Treatment ? No other system has met with so much favour as this owing to its efficiency, as well as to its simplicity and smallness of cost—if properly worked. And if it has not been properly fitted up and worked here, whose is the fault ? The Corporation have done all they could to provide an efficient scheme, money has been freely spent to secure it. Have the Contractors fulfilled their part ? Have they shewn interest and zeal in their work to make it a success ? The Sprinklers appear to form the main feature of their particular plan. We are told that the "Automatic action of their Sprinkler is quite free from complications—extremely simple and cannot get out of order." How comes it that it was necessary to take them away for alteration and repair, and if so simple and uncomplicated why has it been necessary to keep them away so long ? They were removed last July and here towards the end of February they are still absent. During all this time at any rate—to say nothing of the period previous to their removal—we have had to do without the *final* purification of the sewage claimed for them. Surely it is time something was done to remedy such a state of things.

The Water Supply rendered to us at the close of 1901 has been very satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity, and it is quite free from the terribly brackish taste that characterised our former supply. Having just made an analysis of a sample drawn from one of its tap supplies, I can attest to its purity and good condition.

The vexed question of Cottage Accommodation and Overcrowding is still with us and we seem no nearer to a solution of the difficulty. Many houses have been built, some are still in course of construction, but they are not of a class suitable to those for whom accommodation is needed, being too large for their wants,

too highly rented for their means. That I have not exaggerated this need in former Reports is unmistakably shewn by the results of the Census. On referring to those tables you will see how deplorable is the condition of things. In tenements of two small rooms only, we find two of them inhabited by five people in each and one with six persons. Then again in tenements of three rooms there is one containing five persons, two with six, one with seven, one with eight. These facts surely speak for themselves. And what must be the inevitable result if such a condition continue to exist and to increase. Such crowding must lead to the fouling of air and soil, to the spread of infectious disease owing not only to the frequent personal contact, but also to the utter impossibility of exercising means for disinfection and isolation. Disease cannot be stamped out under such conditions and its recrudescence from time to time must be looked for.

I am glad to be able to report this year the accomplishment of an object I have long been advocating—the erection of an Isolation Hospital. It is a small but compact little place, well removed from all habitations, out of the town and yet fairly easy of access. Now that a caretaker has been placed in charge and everything necessary provided, it should always be in a state of readiness for any emergency. I will now pass on to the usual statistics and other matters of importance.

BIRTHS AND BIRTH-RATE.

The number of births registered in 1902 was 59, viz. :—27 boys and 32 girls. This number is in excess of the average by 5. The Birth-rate is 20.7 per 1,000. The excess of Births over Deaths is 39, the natural increase of the population for the year.

DEATHS AND DEATH-RATE.

Twenty-four Deaths in all were registered during the year but four of them were non-residents. Our total, therefore, is 20 only, giving a Death-rate of 7 per 1,000, an extraordinarily low one ; the nearest approach to it was 9 per 1,000 in 1896. I noticed in one or two pamphlets about 1897 or 1898, which gave particulars of the place as a health resort, that 7 per 1,000 was given as the rate for 1896, but it was so stated in error—owing to working on a wrong estimate of the population—but this year it is correct and we may take pride in it and utilise it, if posssible, to full advantage.

SENILE MORTALITY.

Half the deaths recorded, occurred at the age of 71 years and upwards. Every year the percentage of deaths of old people is large. By the Census returns we find that we have still in our midst about 140 persons at 70 years and upwards. The total for 1902 is made up as follows :—

Between 70 and 80	6
,, 80 ,, 90	4
Total ..	10

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The Infantile Mortality is also in large proportion to the number of deaths, being one-fourth of the whole, viz. :—five infants under one year, giving a death-rate of 85 per 1,000 children born and registered. Of these, three died within 12 days of birth and two of broncho pneumonia at three and four months respectively.

Tabular Statement and Notes on Sickness and Mortality in the District.

	Causes of Death	All ages	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	25 and under 65	65 and upwards
1.	Whooping Cough	1	0	1	0	0	0
2.	Diphtheria ..	1	0	0	1	0	0
3.	Pneumonia and Bronchitis ..	4	2	0	1	0	1
4.	Congenital Debility	4	4	0	0	0	0
5.	Heart Disease ..	6	0	0	0	4	2
6.	Old age & decay	5	0	0	0	0	5
7.	Kidney Disease	1	0	0	0	0	1
8.	Paralysis ..	2	0	0	0	0	2
		24	6	1	2	4	11

NOTES :

(1) The child was brought here suffering from the disease contracted when living in the North.

(2) The disease was contracted in a private School by infection from another boy who returned ill from London after the holidays and developed it within a day or two.

(3) Two of these cases occured in infants under six months and one was a case of Bronchitis in an old person of 73.

We had no deaths from Phthisis (nor from any form of Tubercular Disease). Our death-rate from Respiratory Disease is generally low and it affords satisfactory evidence that our climate is health-giving and exhilarating. Cold winds often prevail but they are the purifiers of the air and though disagreeable to some, they are not necessarily injurious. We do not get the amount of East wind with which strangers often credit us, our prevailing wind is W.S.W.

The remaining cases call for no particular comment.

NOTIFICATION of INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Notification Act has been in force in this Borough since July, 1889. As already stated we have suffered rather severely this year from infectious diseases. In all, 36 cases have been reported, but with only one fatal result.

Scarlet Fever	24
Diphtheria	10
Puerperal Fever	1
Erysipelas	1

WATER SUPPLY.

The new Water Supply obtained in 1901 from a good source at Reydon by means of Tube Wells sunk into the gravel and conveyed thence into the town, a distance of over 1½ miles, has so far proved itself very satisfactory. It is tasteless and inodorous and a bright, clear water. Analysis affords evidence of its purity and enables one to class it as a good potable water, fit for all domestic purposes. Two more tubes are now being sunk in order really to suit the engine, as it is too powerful for the work it has to do at present, our actual supply being ample. The supply to householders is a constant one.

A few wells in various parts of the town still continue in favour amongst those who have always been accustomed to drink from them, but the use of the Company's water is almost universal.

DRAINAGE.

Briefly to summarise my Reports of former years as regards its history, I will merely state that our Drainage System was begun in 1894 and started working in May, 1895, the "International" being first adopted. Owing to the smell at the Outfall from the

large accumulation of sludge, etc., it was decided to try the Bacterial Treatment, and in 1899, one tank of the old system was converted to its use. During 1901 the remaining tanks were likewise converted, with the addition of the "Candy" sprinklers and oxidising polarite Beds, two in number, for its final purification. But successful working of these beds has not yet been obtained. I will now enter more minutely into particulars of the whole scheme. As regards the main sewer little need be said as I have already referred to it. In my last Report I pointed out two conditions which certainly called for improvement, viz. :—inefficient flushing and want of proper vent for gases formed. One cannot but attach the greatest importance to flushing and I am glad to record that it has been carried out, regularly and systematically during the year, nearly 35,000 gallons of water being used per week, both by means of the automatic flushing tank in the Market Place and by periodical flushings at the dead ends. I would yet again insist on *more* flushing at any rate during the winter months. The supply of water used then by householders is insufficient, and it is this which makes our sewage so concentrated and strong; it requires to be more diluted. The supply of Vent Pipes has also been improved by the erection of a new shaft at the rear of the Town Hall. No complaint has been received respecting it or others placed in various parts of the town, shewing that no nuisance is caused by them when carried up high enough to safely discharge the sewer air. But I urge again the importance of providing more; we have not yet enough shafts.

I went no further then, as I considered the new beds were more or less in an experimental stage. But now another year has gone and so far from improving, they have gone from bad to worse and it is our duty to face the matter boldly.

I have said that the beds were formed by the conversion of the tanks of the old system. These tanks were 50-ft. long by 15-ft. wide by 5-ft. deep, each capable of holding over 20,000 gallons. Each tank was divided into two compartments to form an Anærobic Sludge Digesting Bed and an Ærobic or Oxidising Polarite Bed, the sewage effluent passing from the former into open troughs which fed self-propelling sprinklers by means of which it was evenly distributed over the surface of the latter bed. During the past year the two new beds only have been used for the sprinklers. Now comes the question, where does the failure arise ? For there should be no smell from these beds and the effluent should pass out almost pure.

I have already pointed out what I consider one source of trouble, viz. :—inefficient supply of water and consequently a very strong sewage.

Next we pass to the Detritus Chamber where there is *no* screen of any kind, then to the Anærobic Beds with their system of upward filtration. Here, I feel sure, is the grave cause of nearly all the trouble. These tanks are kept fully charged and, as I understand, never emptied, never rested. The liquid spreads itself over the top of the beds by *upward* filtration and the liquefactive gases can be seen bubbling and bursting all over it, giving off a most offensive odour. These beds must be absolutely choked up and at the lower part at any rate, can be nothing less than cess-pits. The effluent obtained is terribly impure and contains a large amount of solid matter in suspension. Can such a condition prove satisfactory? What is really happening? Apparently we are simply causing a process of *putrefaction* and only a liquefied, foul, offensive effluent is produced; no purification whatever. This is passed on to the Sprinkling Beds and what wonder if further offence be caused by spreading this over them. Do we require this primary putrefaction? Would it not be wiser to start at once purification of the sewage by taking it direct to the Ærobic Beds—first separating the sludge. I suggest this for your consideration. Undoubtedly Bacterial Treatment is the right form for sewage, and if its principles and mode of working be properly adjusted it must prove successful.

I referred in my last Report to a projected scheme for draining the New Estate by building an Ejector Station. This has been carried out and another engine added at the south pumping station for working it, an air main having been laid between the two stations, compressed air is supplied by it to the duplicate ejectors at the new station. By this provision for the new estate, the Grand Hotel has been able to connect with the main sewer and so do away with its temporary drainage, concerning which, complaint was made last year.

For connection with the main sewer, 40 plans have been received during the year representing some 50 Houses; these have all been carried out and each has been separately tested and approved by the Surveyor. I would here draw the special attention of the Council to the non-compliance on the part of some householders with orders issued by it to provide proper sanitary arrangements. It is useless to make inspections, reports and recommendations and for the Council to make orders if such are to be set at defiance. There are many such offenders. I must also point out that there are still many places in the town where much improvement is needed and I should like them all dealt with systematically and thoroughly. At present 575 houses are connected with the sewer out of a total of 772. Many old-fashioned common privies with cess-pits are still in existence, but I trust all will disappear in time.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT ON NUISANCES, &c.

Reports of Nuisances have been few and none of very serious import. Whem complaints have been received, the Surveyor has promptly visited. In some cases the nuisance was rectified under his directions, but in others, where he considered it necessary, he called in my services as Medical Officer of Health and we visited together. One result of these inspections was the serving of notices on eight owners of property, representing 14 houses, all of which have been connected with the main sewer. Notices were also served on the owners of three disused wells which have since been filled up. A serious defect in construction of house drains was discovered in a row of houses on the East Side of Corporation Road. It was one of the first set of drains laid and these houses were drained in couples into one common drain. One has been recently altered at the Owner's expense and is now drained separately. The others are awaiting the issue of an Appeal by the Corporation in respect of a law suit with reference to a common drain of this kind. In one case defective joints were found but these have been made good.

Complaints have also been received about the condition of certain thoroughfares, where the water collects during heavy rains, owing to an absence of surface drains. These should certainly be provided, the only question being whether to have separate drains for the surface water or allow it to run into the main sewer. The advantage of this latter plan is the occasional scouring afforded by heavy rains, and against it is the possibility of a block being caused at any part of the sewer by the heaping up of sand and other materials washed off the roads but still more, that of the storm waters bursting any portion or forcing back the sewage. It is but seldom however, we get any very heavy fall here.

REPORTS ON VARIOUS OTHER MATTERS.

House Refuse and Sludge.—The Surveyor reports that the house refuse and any sludge formed at the Outfall Works are now carted directly out of the town. This not only effects a great saving in expense, but also relieves us of the enormous collection formerly made at the works when house refuse and sludge were mixed together before being carted away. A proper sludge cart is now in use The house refuse is removed from every house once a week, oftener if necessary. No complaint of neglect has been received. Although the use of the moveable sanitary dustbin has been adopted by nearly all householders now, yet there remain still a fairly large number of the old-fashioned brick ashpits. It is

difficult to understand how such germ-saturated, stinking pits of corruption can be tolerated. Every one of them should be razed to the ground.

URINALS.—The Public Urinals have been kept regularly cleansed and disinfected, and the Corporation purpose erecting extra sanitary conveniences before the season begins as they are greatly needed.

BUILDING.—During the past year plans have been received and passed for the erection of twelve houses and four cottages. These have all been built with the exception of three cottages still in course of erection. I must place on record the building of a Cottage Hospital during 1902. Since 1897 a small house has been rented and utilised for the purpose, but now, by means of legacies and generous donations from the public, a handsome and commodious building has been erected at a cost of £1,600. It is substantial and well-built and capable of accommodating quite a dozen patients, besides the Nursing staff.

LIGHTING.—The Lighting of the Borough has undergone great improvement. The street lamps in the main thoroughfares have been fitted with incandescent lights and new ones added. Electric lighting seems to be increasing in favour, many private houses as well as shops being provided with it, and by its means public lighting has been carried out on the Common all round the West End Estate.

SCAVENGING.—The streets are kept in good order, the Scavenger performing his work most thoroughly and punctually.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE.—There is only one in the Town, "The White Horse." It is properly drained and I have always found it clean and tidy when I have visited it. No complaint has been made respecting it and under new management this last year the Inspector reports very favourably of it.

BYE-LAWS.—Are in force in the Borough respecting building and all other matters in connection with its proper working and orderly rule. No offensive trades are carried on and there are no Factories.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSE.—No serious complaint has been received. Occasionally there is some little smell from the blood and offal before removal. The report of the Inspector shews that it is carefully attended to and that compliance with the Bye-law is enforced.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—The Inspector reports favourably with regard to their cleanliness, and attention to ventilation and lime-washing. The cows have been in a healthy condition, quite free

from disease, and with the exception of one person's cattle all in good condition. He further reports that the dairies are kept sweet and clean, but are not all suitable in respect of air space and accommodation. A new milk shop has been established but its sanitary arrangements require improvement. It will be examined into at once. I cannot say that our dairies and cowsheds are in perfect order: many of them fail to come up to the requirements of the Act and it is to be regretted that its more stringent enforcement is not insisted on in the Borough.

As regards "Measures of Sanitary Improvement needed" I think I have sufficiently indicated them where required in dealing with each subject. I need not therefore recapitulate them here.

Before concluding this portion of my Report, I must acknowledge the great help given me by the Surveyor in all matters connected with our joint work and especially for his efficient aid in my inspections under the "Factory and Workshops Act" which tended greatly to lighten my labour.

Southwold Climatological Observatory.

This Observatory is under the supervision and direction of the Royal Meteorological Society and forms one of their second-order stations. The records now extend over seven years, so that we may obtain a very fair average of our general climatic conditions. During the past year the Council have shewn their recognition of its value by accepting the control of the work and appointing a trained assistant, paid by them, with the Medical Officer of Health as Chief Observer. I would suggest that these observations form in future a recognised part of his duties (as the study of Meteorology is now a part of the ordinary training of every Medical Officer of Health). In this way the work will be carried on continuously and uninterruptedly. I will now give the average results of observations for 1902 and also the average for seven years, the latter in each case following the 1902 figures.

Mean Reading of Barometer:
(Corrected to sea-level and to 32 degrees Farenheit)
29.972 inches. Average 29.965.

Temperature of Air in Shade. (Registered in Stevenson's screen.)

Dry Bulb	48.2 ..	48.7
Wet Bulb	45.3 ..	46.5
Mean Maximum ..	53 6 ..	54.7
Mean Minimum ..	42.4 ..	43.5

Mean daily range of Temperature, 11 degrees.
Highest Temperature recorded in 1902, 79.4 on 29th June.
Lowest ,, ,, ,, 23.7 on 12th February.

Temperature in the Open.

Maximum in Sun's Rays	94	93
Minimum on Grass ..	38.5	38.6

Mean Temperature of Soil.

At depth of 1 foot ..	50.2	51.2
„ „ 4 feet ..	49.4	50.5

Bright Sunshine. (By Jordan's photographic recorder.)

Total amount	1516 hours	1750 hours,
Number of Sunless, overcast days	99	62
Amount of Cloud (0 to 10)	5.5	5.6

Rainfall.

Total amount collected	19.40 inches	21 inches
Number of rainy days	169 ..	166
Greatest fall in one day	0.90 inches on 5th April	

The wettest months were August and May with 3.40 and 3.30 inches, respectively, and the dryest were January, February and March with only $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches altogether.

Remarks.

It will be noticed that the Temperature was rather below the average in 1902 and that the amount of bright sunshine was much less than in previous years, (the last three months of the year were particularly deficient,) consequently the number of sunless days was much greater; that the rainfall was considerably below the average, as it was also in 1901, there being a deficiency of over three inches in the two years. Very little snow fell, twice in January and February, once in December, but there were frosts during the first five months and even once in June, as late as the 11th and it was again first registered on the 19th October. Gales of wind were numerous.

THE CENSUS RETURNS.

I have made an analysis of these returns and will give a summary of them. I think you will find them of interest.

Census of 1901. Population 2,800.

Males.	Under 10	258	Females.	Under 10	237
	Over 10	978		Over 10	1327
		1236			1564

Of the total population 1701 were unmarried as against 917 married and 182 persons widowed.

Ages of persons.	Under 1 year	53	Under 5 years		231
	At 15 years	90	At 21 years ..		159
	At 70 „	62	At 75 „ ..		35
	At 80 „	26	At 85 „ ..		12
	At 90 „	2	At 95 „ ..		1

And again.	Under 5 years ..	231		
	Between 5 and 15 years	557		
	„ 15 „ 40 „	1310		
	Total	2098	*Over* 40	702

or nearly three times as many *under* 40 as there are over.

Houses. Inhabited 658.
Uninhabited ; in occupation 90, unoccupied 24.
Building 6.

Ninety-five new houses have been built during the last ten years.

Tenements of less than five rooms 171. Of these
25 contain 2 rooms only, 15 of which have 1 person
4 „ 2 „
3 „ 3 „
2 „ 5 „
1 „ 6 „

23 contain 3 rooms
4 „ 1 „
9 „ 2 „
3 „ 3 „
2 „ 4 „
1 „ 5 „
2 „ 6 „
1 „ 7 „
1 „ 8 „

123 contain 4 rooms
6 „ 1 „
28 „ 2 „
23 „ 3 „
26 „ 4 „
12 „ 5 „
14 „ 6 „
5 „ 7 „
7 „ 8 „
2 „ 10 „

Occupations. Male and female above 10 years.

	Males.	Females.
Professional Class ..	71	38
Domestic Class	23	241
Commercial Class ..	133	6
Agricultural	23	0
Fishing	116	0
Industrial	389	128
Unoccupied	223	914
	978	1327

I can only obtain the following Census returns.

1831—2,079 pop. 1851—2,102. 1881—2,207. 1891—2,300 1901—2,800.

The following comparisons will be of interest:

1831. Population 2,079 (1,045 Males 1,034 Females) Houses 431
1901. ,, 2,800 (1,236 ,, 1,564 ,, ,, 722

And as regards numbers engaged in various trades:

	1831	1901		1831	1901
Bakers (makers and dealers).. ..	9	19	Rope Makers ..	3	4
Fishmongers, Poulterers	1	10	Tailors	12	25
Grocers	5	30	Bootmakers ..	25	13
Milksellers ..	1	11	Hairdressers ..	2	5
Millers	5	4	Carmen and Carters	8	26
Butchers	4	12	Seamen	204	41
Malster	1	1	Coal Merchants ..	2	4
Brewers	2	5	Blacksmiths ..	10	5
Publicans ..	15	11	Boatbuilders ..	4	1
Salt Makers ..	1	0	Carpenters ..	13	48
Linen Drapers ..	2	21	Bricklayers ..	14	47
			Painters and Glaziers	4	24
			Chemist	1	2

To compare the decades 1881 to 1891 and 1891 to 1901.
In 1881, Census return of population was 2,207
In 1891, ,, ,, ,, ,, 2,300

actual increase of 93 only.

Yet number of deaths in the decade was 307
and ,, births ,, ,, 604

or a *natural* increase by excess of births over deaths of 297.

From these figures it would appear that emigration must have been going on largely in excess of immigration during this period

as not all the missing balance can be accounted for by the absence of the fishing class at time of taking Census.

In 1891, Census return of population was 2,300
In 1901, „ „ „ „ 2,800
actual increase 500.

Number of deaths in this decade was 356
„ births „ „ 541
natural increase 185.

or approximately a gain by the excess of immigration over emigration of 315, a reversal of the order of things in former decade It will be noticed that in the last 10 years there was a decided falling off in the number of births, the birth-rate is steadily declining throughout the country.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS, 1901.

This Act which came into force in January, 1902, imposes several new important powers and duties on Medical Officers of Health and Local Authorities. Under Section 132 every Medical Officer of Health is required in his Annual Report to deal specifically with the administration of the Act in workshops and workplaces so far as the District Council has authority therein, and a copy of this must be sent to the Secretary of State. It must deal with sanitation and bakehouses, also with home work, if any. The District Council is bound to keep a register of all workshops situate within its district, therefore every place within the meaning of the Act must be separately visited and inspected and particulars thereof entered in the Register, for which purpose the Officers of the District Council have power to enter, inspect and examine, and in case of obstruction take a constable. These powers extend also to "workplaces" as well as workshops and factories. I have made this inspection in conjunction with the Surveyor, by order of the District Council, and have visited in all 59 different workshops and workplaces.

Bakers ..	6	Dressmakers ..	10	Painters ..	3
Blacksmiths	3	Electric Lighting		Printers ..	1
Boarding-house	1	Works ..	1	Restaurants	2
Builders ..	4	Flour Mills ..	1	Stable-yards	4
Carpenters	6	Hotels	6	Tailors ..	4
Cooper ..	1	Laundry ..	1	Wheelwright	1
Cyclemakers	3	Milliner	1		

Of this number 21 fail in some way or other to comply with all the provisions of the Act. The chief failure is in respect of proper

sanitary conveniences, 18 of them being deficient to some extent. In one stable-yard there is a urinal without water supply ; in one Hotel Kitchen there is a brick drain in connection with the main sewer and untrapped (this has already been taken in hand). In a carpenter's shop where 5 men are employed there is no convenience of any kind, the reason given being that the men are often away at work and in any case live near by, so that it is unnecessary. In another, the closet consists of a board with a hole in it, fitted into an angle of two walls, with a pail beneath, a most primitive arrangement. In 3 other places also no sanitary convenience is supplied. In 5 others there is the ordinary common privy, for the most part dirty, badly lighted and ventilated, as is also the case in 2 which have W.C. connected with sewer. As regards 1 dressmaker, 1 room is deficient in air space for the number of workers employed in it, and 2 other rooms just comply with the requirements but there is not sufficient for any extra hands nor for overtime work. One tailor has too many workers in one of his rooms for the amount of air space.

Bake-Offices.—Six in number, 3 of which answer to all the requirements of the Act, whilst the others fail in the following particulars : one has water main tap erected over a gully in connection with sewer *in the Office*. Another has very unsatisfactory sanitary convenience, although situated away from the Bake-office and there is no yard gully. The third is dark, badly lighted by one small window, 4 ft. by 1 ft. 9 in., gully in office and the sewer pipe from upstairs W.C. passes down and runs through one corner of it, limewashed once a year only.

The remaining workshops and workplaces comply with the Act and have satisfactory arrangements throughout. About one-third therefore are at fault, some of them in minor details only but others are sadly defective. The inspection necessary for compiling the Register enables us to discover these errors, and obligation is laid upon the Council to remedy them without delay and thus fulfil the evident object of the Act, to provide for the well-being of our work-people and so of the community at large.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

In conclusion I have only to draw attention to the general condition of the town at the end of the year. As already pointed out, our death rate has been remarkably low and though we have suffered somewhat from zymotic disease, yet on the whole, the health of the population has been very good and now at the close of the year, we find our town quite free from all infectious disease and with practically very little illness of any kind Many improvements

have been effected during the year, amongst which I will mention the completion of the road leading to the new Pier and its extension beyond: the successful piling and beach defence at that end of the Parade, and a large portion of the beach extending from East Cliff northwards has been further strengthened by sub-piling the existing defences: the old Pier has been re-constructed and carried out over 60 feet in length in order to make up the beach to the north of it. Public lighting has been increased by an electric installation on the Common at the West End Estate; drainage has been provided for the New Estate by building an Ejector Station, with duplicate machines for raising the sewage, and the work at the South End Pumping Station has been strengthened by the addition of another engine, which there serves the double purpose of working the Ejectors at both stations. And as regards our Drainage, it must not be imagined that because I have passed strictures on it and pointed out faults, it is in any very serious condition, irremediable, and only to be condemned. We don't want a new system, we only want to remedy certain flaws in the present one and that can be done without any great expenditure and without making great radical changes. I consider that our little town can hold its own against any other of like size, surroundings, and possibilities, and I think our Council is to be congratulated on the satisfactory condition of things generally. We do not boast perfection but we certainly aim at it and are making every endeavour to secure it.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant.

ALFRED CORBYN HERBERT,

Medical Officer of Health.